

186th Air Refueling Wing
Mississippi Air National Guard
6225 M Street
Meridian, MS 39307-7112

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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Help Us Spread the Word

Know someone interested in joining the Mississippi Air National Guard?
Get their name and phone number or give them the number of our Recruiting Office.
1-800-354-9892 (601) 484-9787 / 788 or visit us on the internet www.goang.com
Help keep the MS ANG strong and a vital part of our Nation's Defense



BASE LEGAL OFFICE Ext: 49311

Staff:
• Maj Steve Pittman
• Capt Melissa Brady, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate
• MSgt Scott McGee, Paralegal

Services Provided:
• Wills
• Powers of Attorney
• Legal Assistance

Available to all National Guard, Reserve and Active Duty personnel. Also includes Active Duty and AGR dependents and retirees.

UPCOMING DRILL DATES

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2 3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Have some news? Please notify Major Bradley Crawford at 484.9803 if YOU have any newsworthy happenings in your section. Retirements ... promotions ... weekend deployments ... new personnel ... special projects ... etc., that are of interest to members of the unit. These are the types of events that we want to publicize in the *Jet Blast* and local news media. Please be sure to include the author's name on public affairs articles.

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Bradley J. Crawford, Major—Editor

Jet Blast

Erik Hearon, Colonel—Commander

Jet Blast

186th Air Refueling Wing

ORE, EORI, BRAC and R&R

The Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) at the Gulfport CRTC proved to be challenging and educational – just what it was intended to be.

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

Forecast adverse weather from Tropical Storm Arlene resulted in the lead wing, the 126 ARW from Scott AFB, to cancel their participation and in our getting to the CRTC a day late.

Among other things, we were reminded that crisp, clear and coordinated communications are crucial, as is 100% attention to detail and avoiding rushing at the Contamination Control Area (CCA). The sense of urgency and spirit of our people were highly complemented by the fine and extremely knowledgeable Exercise Evaluation Team from the 167 AW in Martinsburg, WV. We will work more during

drills, at Volk Field in October and during the week on being as prepared as possible for the Expeditionary Operational Readiness Inspection (EORI), 29 Jan – 5 Feb at an undisclosed location.

The Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process continues with much enthusiastic support from our friends in the community and around the state. Teams representing GA, AL and TN will present their positions on 30 June in Atlanta while MS, LA and FL teams will be at the 12 Jul hearing in New Orleans. There is a lot of activity being devoted to ensuring and defining our future, not all of which is public or



**Col Erik Hearon
Wing Commander**



Photo by SMSgt Rick Davis

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obvious. Remember to use reliable sources for keeping up with the overall process, including for instance www.ngaus.org and www.eangus.org

Recruiting and retention (R&R) remain, and always will be, areas of great interest and opportunity. Completing necessary AFSC training and PME remains essential to ensuring consideration for future opportunities. Retaining our fine people is one-half of the strength issue and just as important in many respects as recruiting. Recruiting gives us the future members and leadership of the Wing. The recently announced incentives for members who recruit someone into the Wing have been met with enthusiasm. The incentives are \$450 normally and \$650 for a 1C4 in the 238 ASOS. Please address any retention questions to MSgt William "Bo" Clark (484.9825) or recruiting questions to the Recruiting team at 484.9786 or 9787 or 9788 or 800.354.9892.

The Wing leadership thanks you again for your membership, participation and leadership. We know of the demands on family, employers and other parts of each person's life and our thanks go to them as well. Our country and state need us. Let's not let our Guard down.

Retirement Ceremony

You are cordially invited to
a retirement ceremony honoring
Colonel Nick Montgomery and Colonel
Wayne Boykin
at
Joint Forces Headquarters Drill Hall
1410 Riverside Drive
Jackson, Mississippi
Sunday, August 7, 2005 @ 1400 hours
Reception immediately following

News from the Safety Office

News from the Safety Office

The 186th Safety Office recently assisted NAS Meridian by hosting a motorcycle safety course at Key Field. NAS Meridian's safety course has been temporarily shut down. Anyone interested in attending a Motorcycle Safety Course should contact the 186th Safety Office (extension 49251).



Jet Blast Bulletin Board

Items of Interest

Air Force Association

Meridian now has a local chapter of the Air Force Association. AFA Chapter #376 was chartered on Wednesday April 13, 2005 in Union Station in Meridian. The Air Force Association is an independent nonprofit organization that openly and strongly support the USAF and its components including the Air National Guard, and the need for air power as a strong factor in our Nation's defense. Annual membership rates are \$18 for E-1 through E-4 and \$36 for all others. For more information or to find out how to join, visit www.afa.org or contact Maj Brad Crawford at 484.9803.

Attention Retirees

If you are a retiree with an email account and would like to receive updates on important issues concerning Key Field and the ANG, please send an email to Maj Crawford at bradley.crawford@msmeri.ang.af.mil

SECURITY FORCES

To help expedite entry to Key Field, please have your ID readily available prior to first check point.

A Reminder that the east gate (POL) is open, from 0730 – 0830 on Saturday UTA's and from 0600 – 0700 on Sunday UTA's, to personnel with a valid ID and current DoD 2220.

When getting a new DoD 2220 or updating the year you must provide proof of insurance, and have your tag number. If replacing the DoD 2220 you must bring your old sticker in. If you are renewing the year, we ask that you have your current sticker number (DoD 2220) and tag number also.

CHAPLAIN'S COLUMN

I deployed for Diego Garcia on 27 December 2004 which was the day after the tsunami struck and killed unsuspecting thousands of people in south Asia.

The island I went to was spared any loss of life but it was located close enough to some of those areas that did suffer great losses from the tsunami that there was a large amount of debris that washed up on the shores of Diego Garcia. While there I participated in a couple

of cleanup activities where trash was picked up that had washed up on the shore or that had washed inland into the jungle-like areas of the island. Among the items that washed up on shore were hundreds if not thousands of pieces of footwear. Flip flops, beach shoes and the like were found all over the place. Many of those pieces of footwear were from little children. It was a very sobering

thing for me to pick up those shoes because I knew that many if not most of those shoes had been worn by little boys and girls who were probably just out playing in their yards or on the beach on a sunny day when out of nowhere a giant wave came up and washed them out to a

...I need to keep my heart right with my family, friends, my co-workers and God. If there is a kind word I need to say, then I don't need to wait until tomorrow. If there is someone I need to forgive or to ask for forgiveness then I need to do it today. If I need to tell someone I love them then I need to do it today.



watery grave. I brought back a number of those little shoes and flip flops. I have given some of them away but have kept a few of them in my office as a reminder to me and to all who see them that each day of life is a gift and that we are not promised tomorrow. They are a reminder that I need to keep my heart right with my family, friends, my co-workers and God. If there is a kind

word I need to say, then I don't need to wait until tomorrow. If there is someone I need to forgive or to ask for forgiveness then I need to do it today. If I need to tell someone I love them then I need to do it today. The Prophet Amos told the people of Israel in Amos 4:12 to "prepare to meet your God." That was not only good advice for a people who lived nearly 3,000 years ago but it is good advice for us today.

Those little shoes are a reminder to me that I need to stay right with man and God so that if my time on this earth comes tomorrow then I won't have to have any regrets. May those shoes be a reminder to all of us to not put off until tomorrow what we need to do today.

Chaplain Allen

PAY DATES FOR EOM JULY

The schedule below shows dates you can expect to receive pay for duty performed during July 2005. For example, if you should perform duty on 06 July, you can expect to be paid on 15 July if the form is received in Military Pay NLT 1200 on 06 Jul 2005.

Run Date	Pay Date
01 Jul 2005	13 Jul 2005
06 Jul 2005	15 Jul 2005
10 Jul 2005	18 Jul 2005
13 Jul 2005	22 Jul 2005
15 Jul 2005	27 Jul 2005
18 Jul 2005	29 Jul 2005
19 Jul 2005	01 Aug 2005
22 Jul 2005	03 Aug 2005
27 Jul 2005	05 Aug 2005

If you need your "My Pay" pin number reset for your military pay account, contact MSgt Wimberly (4-9779) or TSgt Clayton (4-9781). This can be accomplished within a matter of minutes and you will not have to wait on it to be mailed to you.

Also, if you change your direct deposit or address in "My Pay", be aware that Travel Pay is not on-line with the "My Pay" website. We have a memorandum form that you will need to get from the Military Pay office and turn in to Travel Pay.

Attn: Drill Status Guardsmen (DSG's)

Unit Training Assembly performed on 09-10 July 2005 should pay on 22 Jul 05.

Military Pay Notice

If your marital status changes (ie. You just got married, divorced, or you are a single person that just had a child), then please come by Military Pay to fill out a new AF Form 594. Please bring proper documentation (ie. Marriage License, Divorce Papers, and/or Birth Certificate).

All military members will now have to retrieve their Leave and Earning Statements (LES's) off of My Pay. This also will include your W-2's. This has been made effective 01Jun05 for all DSG's. You should have noticed you have not received any LES's in the mail for the month of June. We have received a listing from the Guard Bureau with approximately 200 members that do not have a pin number and do not use My Pay. If you need access to My Pay, call MSgt Wimberly or TSgt Clayton.

Thanks for your help!!!

MSgt James Booth
MSgt Jimmy Ivey
Lt Col Ted Reynolds
MSgt Mary Sanders
Connie Myers
Linda Maloney (spouse of MSgt John Maloney)
NCO Assn

I appreciate the help and contribution of the above in helping with the Sports Tournament at G'port.
Thanks again,
SMSgt Lynn Barlow

Change of Command in Baghdad

Baghdad International Airport Change of Command

In an "unofficial" change of command ceremony at Baghdad International Airport on 9 May 2005, Maj Rob Parker (Right, 248 ATCS) takes command from Maj Brian Elbert (260 ATCS). Major Parker will be the Airfield Operations Flight Commander, responsible for all airfield management and air traffic control operations at the airport.



NCO Golf Tournament



NCO GOLF TOURNAMENT

**\$105.00
A TEAM**



**3 PERSON
SELECT**

NAS PONTA CREEK 22 AUG 05

0830 TEE TIME

CALL AARON DAVIS, TIM DEAN
484-9343 OR 484-9721



2005 A/T Sports Tournament CHAMPS



SrA Josh Gardner, SrA Jonathan White, TSgt Jimmy Allen, TSgt Paul Rawson



SrA Jonathan Brown, SSgt Cephus McMillian, SrA Tony Dunn



TSgt Andrew Smith, MSgt Arnold Enzor

Gulfport

2005

Arnold AFB Civic Leaders Visit

Civic Leader Visit

The 186 ARW played host to 23 civic leaders from the Smyrna TN / Arnold AFB area on 26 May. The civic leaders were returning from an overnight trip to Dyess AFB, TX and requested that the 186 ARW provide a base tour and an opportunity to meet with Meridian area civic leaders to discuss ways to better support Arnold AFB. The meeting was a great success with over two dozen Meridian area civic leaders in attendance. Mr. Roger Burke, president of the Meridian Area Navy League was the guest speaker along with comments from Mayor John Robert Smith and Mississippi Military Communities Council President, Mr. Lamar McDonald. In addition to the luncheon and tour, the 186 ARW provided airlift for the trip this year and a similar trip last year.

Photo from Arnold AFB
Public Affairs



PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS

AIR FORCE ENLISTED

Amn-E2

6 mo. TIG
6 mo TIS
1-level PAFSC
PME-BMT

A1C-E3

6 mo. TIG
6 mo TIS
1-level PAFSC
PME-BMT

SrA-E4

6 mo. TIG
6 mo TIS
3-level PAFSC
PME-N/A

SSG-E5

2 yrs. TIG
4 yrs. TIS
5-level PAFSC
PME-ALS

TSG-E6

Sole occupant of
at least a TSG
UMD position
2 yrs. TIG
6 yrs. TIS
7-level PAFSC
PME-N/A

MSG-E7

Sole occupant of
at least a MSG
UMD position
2 yrs. TIG
9 yrs. TIS
7-level PAFSC
PME-NCOA

SMS-E8

Sole occupant of
at least a SMSG
UMD position
2 yrs. TIG
13 yrs. TIS
7-level PAFSC
PME-SrNCOA

CMS-E9

Sole occupant of
a CMSG UMD
position
2 yrs. TIG
17 yrs. TIS
9-level PAFSC
PME-SrNCOA

AIR FORCE OFFICERS

Second Lieutenant - 2LT-01

Min. 2 yrs.
Max 38 mo. TIG

First Lieutenant - 1LT-02

Min. 2 yrs.
Max 3 yrs. TIG

Captain - CPT-03

Min. 4 yrs.
Max 7 yrs. TIG

Major - MAJ-04

Min. 4 yrs.
Max 7 yrs. TIG

LT. Colonel - LTC-05

Min. 3 yrs.
Max n/a TIG

Colonel - COL-06

Min. 3 yrs.
Max n/a TIG

Brigadier General - BG-07

Major General - MG-08

Lieutenant General - LTC-09

General - GEN-09

General of the Air Force - GOAF

General of the Air Force - GOAF

General officers are nominated
for promotion by the President of
the United States, and confirmed
by the Senate.

Malone Retires

Malone Retires, hands over Medical Group to Justus

After almost 31 years of service, Colonel Earl Malone spent the last of many weekends at Key Field as friends and family joined to celebrate and congratulate him on his retirement from the 186 Medical Group. Before he could go he had one order of business to complete, relinquish command of the Medical Group to Lt Col Robert Justus. This was accomplished in the Operations

Col Malone received the Meritorious Service Medal from Col Hearon during his retirement ceremony.



Colonel Malone joined the 186 TRG in 1974 and served as the chief optometrist until transferring to the Air Force Reserve at Keesler AFB in 1984. In 1992 he returned to the 186 ARW and assumed the position of Medical Group Commander in 1997 where he has served since. Malone practiced optometry in Biloxi 1970-1985, McComb 1985-1999, and presently is employed in Biloxi. He and his wife

Patsy, have one daughter, Heather. We thank Col Malone for his service and wish him well in retirement.

Lt Col Justus has a private dental practice in Meridian and has been a member of the 186 ARW for 9 years.



Incoming Medical Group Commander, Lt Col Robert Justus receives the MG Guidon from Col Hearon as MSgt Wimberly, First Sergeant looks on

building before a crowd of family, friends, and unit members with Col Hearon serving as the reviewing official. Having recently received an excellent on their Health Services Inspection under Col Malone's watch, the 186 Medical Group is poised to continue to excel under the leadership of Lt Col Justus.

*Need a little extra cash for that summer vacation?
Helping someone join the Air Guard here at Key Field pays off!
If you refer an applicant to the recruiters and they join, you get cash!
\$450 if they join the 186ARW (any AFSC)
\$650 if they join the 238th ASOS (1C4X1 AFSC only)*

*Help someone join the Mississippi Air National Guard!
Call the Recruiting Office for more details! • 1-800-354-9892 • (601) 484-9787 / 788*



Meridian's military bases have a tremendous impact on the continuing mission of the United States armed forces and on the East Mississippi/West Alabama area. As America faces another round of base realignments and closures, Meridian's 186th Air Refueling Wing has been targeted for a drastic change in mission—a change that could result in the loss of its nine tankers, more than 500 jobs and \$20 million in annual payroll.

The Meridian Military Team is fully engaged to present a valid case for keeping the mission of the 186th Air Refueling Wing located in Meridian. This experienced team led the fight to save NAS Meridian from closure in 1991, 1993 and 1995, and in the intervening 10 years, they have worked with Department of Defense officials to keep our bases strong and growing and solicit new missions. For this round, Air Force experts in flight and tanker operations and in military finance have joined the team.

Highly Rated and Always Ready

The 186th Air Refueling Win is highly utilized. This unit averages more than 3,000 flying hours annually. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the unit has deployed to more than 19 countries in support of operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom, Northern & Southern Watch and Iraqi Freedom, delivering more than 40 million pounds of fuel.

The 186th is staffed by heroes from home—the members and their families hail from Lauderdale and surrounding counties. Of those members, some 175 have full-time jobs and about 340 other “weekend warriors” make up the contingent of the 186th. Almost all of them have served overseas in some capacity. The BRAC decision to move the 186th's tanker mission will cost our area more than 500 jobs, and force many hometown heroes to relocate.

There are approximately 400,000 sq. ft. of buildings at Key Field with a ramp capacity (1,047,656 sq. ft.) to accommodate 16 KC-135R or other heavy body aircraft without additional investment. It also features the longest commercial runway in Mississippi, 10,000 ft., with additional overrun at each end of 500 ft., plus unencroached air space.

The 186th is one of only two units in the Air National Guard to have a two-bay hangar capable of housing two KC-135R aircraft side-by-side, in addition to a fuel cell repair hangar.

Want to Help Save the 186th?

- Yard Signs—Yard signs with the “Guard Meridian—Best for America” slogan are available at the EMBDC.
- Marquis Signs—If you own a business, please put up the theme “Guard Meridian—Best for America.”
- Letters to BRAC members—Every letter that is sent to BRAC members is posted. Take time to write a letter today saying how much you support the 186th Air Refueling Wing and their mission. Post your letters at: www.brac.gov
- Join the Air Force Association—New Meridian chapter, AFA 376, is a great way to show your support. Memberships are \$36 for individuals and \$75 for businesses. You can send your membership to (please note Chapter 376) to: Air Force Association, 1501 Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209-9963. Phone is 800-727-3337 or www.afa.org.

**For more information on the efforts to save the
186th Air Refueling Wing mission,
please contact the EMBDC at 601-693-1306.**

Annual Training & ORE



238 ASOS

Twelve members of the 238 ASOS returned from a one hundred and twenty-day deployment to Iraq this month. While in Iraq, they operated out of FOB Kalsu providing air support for Mississippi's 155th Separate Armored Brigade.

A Return Home from Iraq

The twelve are:

Terry Arnsdorff	Lt Col
Jason S Gressett	SSgt
Bill Murphy	Maj
Zachary Swain	A1C
Barry Bufkin	MSgt
Michale Key	A1C
Gregory Crawford	MSgt
Joshua Josef	SrA
Johnny McGuire	TSgt
Don Kemp	SrA
Tyler Wiggins	SSgt
Adam Bout	SrA



Welcome Home Parade

Meridian hosted a Welcome Home Parade and celebration in downtown on 23 May to honor service members from Lauderdale County and surrounding areas. Family, friends, and supporters of the military including many from the 186 ARW and 238 ASOS were present to enjoy the festivities and hear from several speakers including Maj Gen Cross and Col Hearon.

